Module 3: Functions of Communities in Terms of Structure, Dynamics, and Processes

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Grade & Section: _____________________

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Bartle (2010) pointed out that “a community is a super-organic organism or system” made up of the thoughts, outlook, and conduct of individual human beings full of divisions and conflicts brought about by differences in religion, ethnicity, gender, access to resources, class, educational level, income level, ownership of properties, language, personality, opportunities, and lot more. This reality indicates that to work in a community or to undertake community interventions is a challenging task. One must get to know first and foremost the community system. How does the community work? What are the structures and the different dimensions of community? One must observe how the community acts and reacts that are external and internal to its system. Development work requires understanding community dynamics and processes.

This module analyzes the functions of communities in terms of structure, dynamics, and processes.

After going through this module, you are expected to:

- Recognize the functions of communities in terms of structure, dynamics, and processes.

Review

Identification

Write your answer on your answer sheet. Select the correct answer from the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Social Science Perspective</th>
<th>The Sectoral Perspective</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Community-Based Perspective</td>
<td>The Civil Society Perspective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Ecological Perspective</td>
<td>Community Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virtual Perspective</td>
<td>Systems Perspective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual Perspective</td>
<td>Social Perspective</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Defined as a wide array of nongovernmental organizations and volunteer groups that are for solutions to social issues that continue to worsen the condition of the disadvantaged sectors of society, especially the poor.

2. These sectors composed of groups of individuals embodying distinct roles and interests within the community system.
3. A community is a congregation of species that occur together in time and space and have high probability for interaction.

4. This perspective requires vigilance in assessing community structures and processes before any community interventions.

5. The people can be unified by geography, shared interests, values, experiences, or traditions.

6. The key to this perspective is that to address a community's complex reality successfully requires proper integration, collaboration, and constant coordination of resources from all its parts.

7. This perspective describes the social and political networks that connect individuals, organizations, and its leaders.

8. Individuals rely heavily on computer-mediated communication.

9. Individuals who are living in a community have their unique sense of membership.

### Functions of Communities in Terms of Structure, Dynamics, and Processes

#### Discover

**The Elements of a Community: Nature and Power Structure**

The dynamics of a community are determined by its nature and structure and how it reacts with external or internal forces. It is thus important to recognize the characteristics and features of a community to understand why it acts and reacts in a certain way.

#### The Nature of a Community

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nature</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A community is a sociological construct</td>
<td>The concept of a community is not only a “construct” (model); it is a sociological construct or a set of interactions or human behaviors that have meaning and expectations between its members. There is not just action, but actions based on shared expectations, values, beliefs, and meanings between individuals. In understanding how a community operates and how it changes, it is necessary to learn a little bit about sociology, the science. The mobilizer is an applied scientist, a social scientist. While a pure scientist is interested in taking that knowledge and getting useful results.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A community has fuzzy boundaries.</td>
<td>When a community is a little village separated by a few kilometers from other villages in a rural area, its boundaries appear at first to be very simple. The human</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
interaction present may be seen as consisting only of relations among the residents living inside that village. If the residents interact with people outside the village, they may, for example, marry persons from other places and move or bring a spouse in to live with them. At any given time, those village residents may have sisters, brothers, cousins, parents, and relatives living elsewhere. The boundary of the community is no longer that precise.

A community can exist within a larger community. There may be communities within larger communities, including districts, regions, ethnic groups, nations, and other boundaries. There may be marriages and other interactions that link the villages of a nation together.

A community may move. When technology is not based on local horticulture, the community residents may be physically mobile. They may be nomadic herders walking long distances with their cattle. They may be mobile fishing groups who move from time to time to where the fish are available. They may be hunters who move to follow the game.

Source: Phil Bartle, 2010

A community can be considered like an organism because it can function even people come and go. It transcends the individual persons that make it up. A living organism also behaves similarly as it transcends its atoms.

**The Structure of a Community**

In a community, change agents put premium in understanding power structure. Community power structure is about the distribution of power at the local community level (Sociology Guide). Power in a community is the capacity to influence the decision-making and distribution processes, to bring about change and get things done. The idea of power includes determining the structures that have impact on local communities and also the linkages that form collaborative works.

For community social change to happen, it is necessary to understand the power actors. As discussed below, power actors have power mainly because of their influence. The forms of power present, however, vary from one community to the other. Community organizers and development workers pay close attention to power actors and the key people in the community power structure because of their significant roles in social change. Their behavior or reaction can break or make community development interventions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bases of Local Community Power</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Connections</td>
<td>The capacity to create linkages and develop helpful relationships with powerful individuals, family, and organizations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power in Number</td>
<td>The base, back-up, and support of the people in the community.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rewards</td>
<td>The ability to provide awards, promotion, money, and gifts that are useful to meet individual or organizational goals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Traits/Expertise</td>
<td>The capacity to foster respect and loyalty based on charm, talents, and skills.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legitimate Power</td>
<td>The leadership title or higher organizational or institutional position.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information</td>
<td>The ability to keep or share information</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Coercion | Influence through manipulation and coercion.
---|---
Source: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (May 2005)

## The Dimensions of a Community

A community is a complex system with different dimensions. These dimensions may be present in all communities, but they may vary in size, degree, and complexity. This characteristic of a community may be attributed to the combination of the communities’ human resource, natural resource, culture, structure, and other factors. Bartle (2010) identified six community dimensions: technological, economic, political, institutional, aesthetic-value, and belief-conceptual. These are briefly described in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dimensions</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Technological</td>
<td>It is the community capital- its tools, skills, and ways of dealing with the physical environment. It is the interface between humanity and nature. This dimension is not comprised of the physical tools themselves but of the learned ideas and behavior that allow humans to invent, use, and teach others about these tools. Technology is as much a cultural dimension as beliefs and patterns of interaction are. It is symbolic.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic</td>
<td>It is the community’s various ways and means of production and allocation of scarce and useful goods and services through barter, market trade, state allocations, and others. This dimension is not about physical items like cash but about the ideas and behavior that give value to cash (and other items).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political</td>
<td>The various ways and means of allocating power, influence, and decision-making. It is not the same as ideology, which belongs to the values dimension. It includes, but is not limited to, types of governments and management systems. It also includes how people in small bands or informal groups make decisions when they do not have a recognized leader.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional</td>
<td>These are the ways people act, react, and interact with each other, as well as the ways they expect each other to act and interact. It includes institutions like marriage or friendship; roles like a mother or a police officer; status or class; and other patterns of human behavior. This dimension looks at patterns of relationships that are sometimes identified as roles and status, and the formation of groups and institutions that derive from those patterns.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aesthetic-Values</td>
<td>This refers to the structure of ideas- sometimes paradoxical, inconsistent, or contradictory-that people have about what is good and bad, beautiful and ugly, and right and wrong. This is what they use to explain or justify their actions. The three axes are not acquired through our genes but through our socialization. That implies that they can be relearned, that we could change our judgments. Values, however, are incredibly difficult to change in a community. They do change as community standards evolve, but that change cannot be rushed or guided through outside influence or conscious manipulation. Shared community standards are important in community and</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Beliefs-Conceptual

This is another structure of ideas, also sometimes contradictory, that people have about the nature of the universe, the world around them, their role on it, and the nature of time, matter, and behavior. This dimension is sometimes thought to be the religion of the people. It is however a wider category, and it includes atheistic beliefs, such as how man created God in his own image. Also, it includes shared beliefs in how this universe came to be, how it operates, and what reality is. It is religion and more. It is necessary to study and be aware of what the prevailing beliefs are in the community. For you to be an effective catalyst of social change, your actions must not offend those prevailing beliefs; they must be consistent with, or at least appropriate to, existing beliefs and concepts of how the universe works.

Understanding the different dimensions of a community is a prerequisite to the process of community mapping and analysis. It is only when you have a full grasp of the economic, political, social, cultural, ecological, physical dimensions of the community that you may be able to build the community puzzle. There is a need to detect the key or combinations of keys to put together the different parts of the puzzle successfully in order to see the whole picture of the social issues affecting the community. It is thus important to develop not just the skill of assessing or analyzing observable data, but also the skill of sensing or intuiting because there are things that the people do not show or say. That is the value of the so-called paglubogor community immersion.

### The Four Approaches in Applying the term Community

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Groups</th>
<th>Approaches of each group in applying the term community</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Group (Sociologists and Geographers)</td>
<td>They are concerned about the social and spatial formation of social organizations into small groups, such as neighborhoods, small towns, or other spatially bounded localities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Group (Those Working in Cultural Studies and Anthropology)</td>
<td>Applies the term to ideas of belonging and difference around issues such as identity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Group (Those Working in the Social Movement)</td>
<td>Considers community as a form of political mobilization inspired by radical democracy that prompts communities of action to oppose social injustice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth Group (Those Concerned about the Influence of Globalization)</td>
<td>Consider the development of a community based on the rise of a global society that draws on processes, such as transnational mobility and the development of diaspora, and technological development, such as global communications and the Internet, to explain this.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The identification of the four approaches indicates that perspectives on communities evolve depending on the realities and requirements of the environment. In the earlier points of view, communities are seen, traditionally, as spatially bounded and attached to the powers of locality or place (Delanty 2003).
Analyze

“Masid-Suri”

Instructions:

Masid – to observe

1. Watch a short film or any movies about community life at your choice.
2. Watch and observe the dynamics at play.
3. Take notes of your observations in your answer sheet.
4. If you cannot watch a short film or movie, you can relate into your own community.

Suri – to analyze

1. Write an essay on the community shown in the short film/movie or your community.
2. Use the following guide questions:
   2.1. What is the composition of the community?
   2.2. What are the characteristics of the community?
   2.3. What are the dynamics/structure/processes in the community?
3. Your essay will be evaluated based on the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stays on the topic</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stays on the topic all (100%) of</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the time.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stays on the topic most (99-90%)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of the time.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stays on the topic some (89-75%)</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>of the time.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It was hard to tell what the</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>topic was.</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accuracy of Facts (Content)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All supporting facts are</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>reported accurately.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Almost all supporting facts are</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>reported accurately.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most supporting facts are</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>reported accurately.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No facts are reported, or most</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>are inaccurately reported.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sequencing of Information</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information is organized in a</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>clear, logical way. It is easy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to anticipate the type of</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>material that might be next.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most information is organized in</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a clear, logical way.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some information is logically</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sequenced. An item of information</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>seems out of place.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There is no clear plan for the</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>organization of information.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Enrichment Activity

Instructions:

1. Identify a community that is familiar to you.
2. Recall significant events or ordinary happenings that continue to exist in the community.
3. Identify and describe these occurrences, put a name per occurrence, and determine if each occurrence is considered as a community dimension. Community dimensions are actually different parts of a community. However, according to Phil Bartle, we apply the term “dimension” because what we are referring to are “analytical categories” and not “observable parts” such as parts of a body.
4. Draw a diamond and write in each angle the dimensions that you have identified in the activity.
5. Write your output in your notebook or answer sheet.

Reflection Question:
What did you learn from the activity? What were your criteria in determining community dimensions?

RUBRIC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CRITERIA</th>
<th>DETAILS</th>
<th>POINTS / PERCENTAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clarity of Content</td>
<td>How relevant are the content/s.</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication Styles</td>
<td>How viable are the skills / styles or usage of grammar.</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of the Activity</td>
<td>How much impact can it be to the reader/s.</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: This RUBRIC may apply all activities in this module.

Activity

Activity 1

“Piling Dimensiyon ng Komunidad”

Instructions:
1. Choose one community dimension.
2. Go to a poor community and observe the community dimension that you chose in action.
3. Describe the community focusing on the dimension that you chose.
4. Make a slogan out of your description.
5. Your slogan will be evaluated based on the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CRITERIA</th>
<th>DETAILS</th>
<th>POINTS / PERCENTAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quality</td>
<td>Remarkably constructed. Relevant and very attractive.</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inventiveness</td>
<td>Remarkably inventive and creative. A lot of thinking and reflection were used to make the presentation.</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innovativeness</td>
<td>Remarkably innovative and original.</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Activity 2**

After accomplishing the activity, answer the following questions using your answer sheet.

1. What slogan did you make?
   
   __________________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________

2. What is the meaning of your slogan? How did you come up with it?
   
   __________________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________

3. What were your realizations about the community while doing the activity?
   
   __________________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________
4. What did you learn from the activity?
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________

5. Explain this statement: “The three axes are not acquired through our genes but through our socialization.”
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________

Remember

The following are the nature of community:
➢ A community is a sociological construct
➢ A community has fuzzy boundaries.
➢ A community can exist within a larger community.
➢ A community may move.

The following are the bases of local community power:
• Connections
• Power in Number
• Rewards
• Personal Traits/expertise
• Legitimate Power
• Information
• Coercion

Bartle (2010) identified six community dimensions:
• Technological
• Economic
• Political
• Institutional
• aesthetic-value
• belief-conceptual
The Four Approaches in Applying the term Community

- **First Group (Sociologists and Geographers)** - They are concerned about the social and spatial formation of social organizations into small groups, such as neighborhoods, small towns, or other spatially bounded localities.

- **Second Group (Those Working in Cultural Studies)** - Applies the term to ideas of belonging and difference around issues such as identity.

- **Third Group (Those Working in the Social Movement)** - Considers community as a form of political mobilization inspired by radical democracy that prompts communities of action to oppose social injustice.

- **Fourth Group (Those Concerned about the Influence of Globalization)** - Consider the development of a community based on the rise of a global society that draws on processes, such as transnational mobility and the development of diaspora, and technological development, such as global communications and the Internet.

**Evaluation**

**Multiple Choice.** Choose the letter of the best answer among the given choices. Write the chosen letter on your notebook as your answer sheet.

1. What is community power structure all about?
   
   A. They vary in size, degree, and complexity.
   B. It is the interface between humanity and nature.
   C. The distribution of power at the local community.
   D. Recognize the characteristics and features of a community.

2. What is the prerequisite to the process of community mapping and analysis?
   
   A. It is necessary to understand the power actors.
   B. Understanding the different dimensions of a community.
   C. To undertake community interventions is a challenging task.
   D. An understanding of the community members’ attitude and behavior.

3. Community power structure is about the distribution at the local community level, why it is necessary to understand the power actors or power in a community?
   
   A. Because of dealing with physical environment.
   B. Because of the ways they expect each other to act and interact.
   C. Because of the existing beliefs and concepts of how the universe works.
   D. Because of the capacity to influence the decision-making and distribution processes.

4. Which of the following structure of ideas or dimensions that is sometimes thought to be the religion of people?
   
   A. Political
   B. Economic
5. Which of the following bases of local community power that leadership title or higher organizational or institutional position?

A. Coercion  
B. Rewards  
C. Connections  
D. Legitimate Power

6. Which of the following structure of ideas or dimensions that this dimension is not about physical items like cash but about ideas and behavior that give value to cash (and other items)?

A. Political  
B. Economic  
C. Institutional  
D. Beliefs-Conceptual

7. Which of the following structure of ideas or dimensions that looks at patterns of relationships that are sometimes identified as roles and status, and the formation of groups and institutions that derive from those patterns?

A. Political  
B. Economic  
C. Institutional  
D. Beliefs-Conceptual

8. If the residents interact with people outside the village, they may marry persons from other places and move or bring a spouse in to live with them. What nature of community describes the situation?

A. A community may move.  
B. A community has fuzzy boundaries.  
C. A community is a sociological construct.  
D. A community can exist within a larger community.

9. If the community residents may be nomadic herders walking long distances with their cattle or they may be mobile fishing groups who move from time to time to where the fish are available. What nature of community describes the situation?

A. A community may move.  
B. A community has fuzzy boundaries.  
C. A community is a sociological construct.  
D. A community can exist within a larger community.

10. The idea of power includes determining the structures that have impact on local communities and also the linkages that form collaborative works. What are the bases of local community power?

A. Social Justice, Human Diversity, Values, and Ethics  
B. Technological, Economic, Political, Institutional, Aesthetic-Values, Beliefs-Conceptual
C. Coercion, Rewards, Information, Power in Number, Legitimate Power, Personal Traits/Expertise
D. Religion, Ethnicity, Gender, Access to Resources, Class, Educational Level, Income Level and a lot more.

11. It is important to recognize the characteristics and features of a community to understand why it acts and reacts in a certain way. The following are the nature of community, EXCEPT?

A. A community may move.
B. A community has fuzzy boundaries.
C. A community is a sociological construct.
D. A community have defined territories and are given life by interacting people processes.

12. How are you going to determine the dynamics of a community?

A. By assessing or analyzing observable data.
B. By its tools, skills, and ways of dealing with the physical environment.
C. By its nature and structure and how it reacts with external or internal forces.
D. By actions based on shared expectations, values, beliefs, and meanings between individuals.

13. Why is it that community organizers and development workers pay close attention to power actors and the key people in the community power structure?

A. Because of the ability to keep or share information.
B. Because of their significant roles in social change.
C. Because of the ability to provide awards, promotion, money and gifts.
D. Because of the leadership title or higher organizational or institutional position.

14. Community dimensions are actually different parts of a community. Understanding the different dimensions of a community is a _________________?

A. A prerequisite to the process of community mapping and analysis.
B. A different set of forces from those faced by the community where the individual lives.
C. Shared community standards are important in community and personal identity.
D. A community development action plan includes strategies and actions meant to enhance the quality of life in a community.

15. One must observe how the community acts and reacts to forces that are external and internal to its system. In development works this requires?

A. Understanding a community and its gains.
B. Understanding community dynamics and processes.
C. Understanding the different perspectives on community.
D. Understanding how a community operates and how it change.
Answers Key

Evaluation
1. C
2. B
3. D
4. D
5. D
6. B
7. C
8. B
9. A
10. C
11. D
12. C
13. B
14. A
15. B

References:


Region IX: Zamboanga Peninsula Hymn – Our Eden Land

Here the trees and flowers bloom
Here the breezes gently Blow,
Here the birds sing Merrily,
The liberty forever Stays,

Here the Badjaos roam the seas
Here the Samals live in peace
Here the Tausogs thrive so free
With the Yakans in unity

Gallant men And Ladies fair
Linger with love and care
Golden beams of sunrise and sunset
Are visions you’ll never forget
Oh! That’s Region IX

Hardworking people Abound,
Every valleys and Dale
Zamboangueños, Tagalogs, Bicolanos,
Cebuanos, Ilocanos, Subanons, Boholanos,
Ilongos,
All of them are proud and true
Region IX our Eden Land
Region IX
Our..
Eden...
Land...

The Footprints Prayer

One night I had a dream. I dreamed that I was walking along the beach with the LORD.

In the beach, there were two (2) sets of footprints – one belong to me and the other to the LORD.

Then, later, after a long walk, I noticed only one set of footprints.

“And I ask the LORD. Why? Why? Why did you leave me when I am sad and helpless?”

And the LORD replied “My son, My son, I have never left you. There was only one (1) set of footprints in the sand, because it was then that I CARRIED YOU!

Trees by Joyce Kilmer

I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.

A tree whose hungry mouth is prest
Against the earth’s sweet flowing breast;

A tree that looks at God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;

A tree that may in Summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;

Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain.

Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.